

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUALA 02340 010240Z

65

ACTION EA-10

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R 301050Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9729

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 2340

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, MY, NZ

SUBJ: VISIT OF NEW ZEALAND DEFENSE MINISTER TO MALAYSIA

REF: K.L. 3582, 7/29/74

1. SUMMARY: FAMILIARIZATION VISIT OF NZ DEFMIN FRASER TO MALAYSIA APRIL 28-30 CONSIDERED SUCCESSFUL ALTHOUGH NO NEW GROUND WAS BROKEN IN BILATERAL DEFENSE OR POLITICAL RELATIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. IN PRIME MINISTER RAZAK'S ABSENCE (PM IS ALSO DEFMIN), FRASER AND DEFENSE SECRETARY ROBERTSON MET WITH HOME AFFAIRS MIN GHAZALI SHAFIE, DEPUTY DEFMIN DZULKIFLI HAMID, ACTING INSPECTOR-GENERAL OF POLICE HANIFF OMAR AND SENIOR MILITARY OFFICERS. NZ HIGH COMMISSION OFFICER (SIMCOCK) CHARACTERIZED VISIT AS USEFUL, THOUGH UNSPECTACULAR, PRIMARY BENEFIT HAVING BEEN OPPORTUNITY FOR FRASER TO MEET MALAYSIAN LEADERS. GOM'S MILITARY AND SECURITY BRIEFINGS, SIMCOCK SAID, DID NOT REVEAL ANYTHING NEW REGARDING DOMESTIC COMMUNIST INSURGENCY OR GOM'S ATTITUDES
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PAGE 02 KUALA 02340 010240Z

TOWARD DEVELOPMENTS IN INDOCHINA. REGARDING LATTER,

SIMCOCK SAID MALAYSIANS WERE "STRANGELY QUIET" AND IT CLEAR TO HICOM OFFICERS ACCOMPANYING FRASER THAT GHAZALI SHAFIE AND OTHERS DID NOT WANT TO SPECULATE TOO MUCH ABOUT FUTURE OF SOUTHEAST ASIA WITH COMMUNIST-CONTROLLED INDOCHINA.

3. NO NEW AGREEMENTS REGARDING MILITARY COOPERATION WERE REACHED WITH GOM BUT BOTH NATIONS AGREED TO CONTINUE BUILDING UPON EXCHANGE AGREEMENTS CONCLUDED DURING FAULKNER VISIT LAST YEAR (REFTEL). SIMCOCK SAID EXCHANGES OF INDIVIDUAL OFFICERS WILL PROBABLY INCREASE AND THERE WILL BE MORE FREQUENT PARTICIPATION OF MALAYSIAN UNITS IN DEFENSE EXERCISES IN NEW ZEALAND. (MALAYSIAN ARMY INFANTRY COMPANY WAS SENT TO NZ IN EARLY APRIL TO TAKE PART IN EXERCISE, CODENAMED "NORTHERN SAFARI," ON NORTH ISLAND. SIMCOCK SAID THIS EXERCISE CONSIDERED "VERY SATISFACTORY" BY GNZ.) ALSO, SIMCOCK SAID NZ UNITS MAY BE SENT HERE FOR TRAINING AFTER NZ GROUND FORCES WITHDRAWN FROM SINGAPORE.

4. ON FIVE-POWER DEFENSE ARRANGEMENT (FPDA), SIMCOCK SAID EXPECTATION OF BOTH GOM AND GNZ IS THAT NEW ZEALAND GROUND AND AUSTRALIAN AIR UNITS WILL BE WITHDRAWN FROM SINGAPORE AND MALAYSIA RESPECTIVELY IN NEXT FEW YEARS, ALTHOUGH THERE NO FIRM TIME-TABLE. NOTING NZ LABOR PARTY LEFT-WING HAS ALREADY CALLED FOR WITHDRAWAL OF NZ TROOPS, SIMCOCK SAID GNZ LIKELY TO RETAIN LIAISON STAFF IN SINGAPORE AND FEW OFFICERS AND ENLISTED MEN AT INTEGRATED AIR DEFENSE HEADQUARTERS AT BUTTERWORTH AFB, PENANG.
UNDERHILL

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